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**Subject:** Courtesy Congressional Notification on EPA order against Clarksburg, WV  
**Attachments:** Clarksburg Water Board. PWS Emergency Administrative Order. 7.14.2021.pdf

Hello,

This is a courtesy notification to inform you that EPA signed the attached Emergency Administrative Order against Clarksburg Water System. EPA Region 3 will issue a press release tomorrow that will include the message below. If you have any question, please contact Mark Ferrell at [ferrell.mark@epa.gov](mailto:ferrell.mark@epa.gov). Thank you.

## **EPA orders Clarksburg to identify homes, businesses with lead service lines**

**PHILADELPHIA** (July 15, 2021) – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued an emergency administrative order today directing the Clarksburg Water Board to identify homes and businesses with lead service lines and provide an alternative source of drinking water to all customers who may be impacted by the lead exposure.

EPA, in coordination with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (WVDHHR), determined this action is necessary to protect public health after determining that conditions in the Clarksburg water system may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to human health.

According to the order, the Water Board has failed to notify the public about the risk of lead exposure through the prescribed timeline in an administrative order issued by the WVDHHR on July 2. The WVDHHR issued a notice of violation today citing the Water Board for failing to comply with its July 2 order. Link to WVDHHR press release:

<https://dhhr.wv.gov/News/2021/Pages/DHHR-Issues-Notice-of-Violation-to-Clarksburg-Water-Board.aspx>

The EPA order directs the Water Board to immediately identify homes that may be impacted and provide an alternate source of drinking water and/or point of use filters certified for lead removal for homeowners where elevated lead levels are known or where suspected lead service lines exist.

Additionally, the Water Board must provide EPA with a copy of its notification to the homeowners indicating steps they can take to reduce lead exposure and that an alternate water supply has been made available. The Water Board must also keep a daily log of which homes have received alternative water or certified filters.

The issue of lead service lines was first identified by staff in the WVDHHR's Bureau for Public Health's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program during environmental lead assessments conducted at the homes of children diagnosed with elevated blood lead levels. Water sampling in several homes confirmed lead levels were above the EPA's action level.

The Clarksburg water system serves approximately 17,686 persons and has 7,913 service connections. In addition, the system provides water to other public water systems that serve an additional 38,225 persons.

Parents of children under age six who are living in older homes serviced by the Clarksburg Water Board should discuss the risks of lead exposure with their child's pediatrician to determine if precautionary blood lead testing is needed.

Additional steps all consumers can take include flushing water lines used for drinking and cooking and using bottled water for making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water and should not be practiced for lead abatement.

For more information about lead in drinking water, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/basic-information-about-lead-drinking-water>

Chad Nitsch

Director, Office of Public Affairs

US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)

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